

Carlsbad, New Mexico – The emergency border security funding surge co-sponsored by Congressman Harry Teague is on its way to being signed in to law by the President. The \$600 million package, which will bolster border security efforts along the US-Mexico border by providing additional support to current border patrol activities, received the final approval needed by the Senate today in order to send the legislation to the President, who is expected to sign it soon.

“This legislation is a win for border communities in New Mexico. It means more agents patrolling the region, more forward operating bases so our agents can spend their time protecting the border instead of commuting to it, and more resources to crack down on the escalating border violence and prevent the drug war from spilling over into New Mexico communities,” said Harry Teague, Vice Chair of the Congressional Border Caucus. “I am pleased that my colleagues in Congress have put partisan games aside to pass this important emergency funding. The safety of our communities, and our country, is too important to delay this legislation any further. I urge the President to act just as expeditiously in signing this legislation in to law so that our Border Patrol Agents and National Guard troops on the border can grow their efforts. The men and women working to secure our border and protect New Mexican communities deserve these critical resources.”

Following House passage of the bill earlier this week, Teague called on the Senate to reconvene immediately to approve the bill so authorities can quickly surge security resources to the border.

The funding surge will boost border security efforts along the US-Mexico border by providing additional support to current border patrol activities, including additional Border Patrol agents and other border enforcement officials, new forward operating bases for the Border Patrol, and

more law enforcement resources to fight drug smuggling and the spillover of drug violence into the U.S., without adding to the deficit. To pay for these enhancements to border security, the bill raises fees on H-1B visas that companies use to hire foreign skilled workers. The higher fees will be imposed on companies that have more than 50 percent of their employees on H-1B visas.

The bill would provide:

- \$176 million for 1,000 new Border Patrol agents to form a “strike force” to be deployed at most-needed areas
- \$50 million for 250 new ICE personnel, including special agents, intelligence analysts and support personnel
- \$39 million for Customs and Border Protection to keep the current levels of officers

- \$37 million for Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents along the border
- \$34 million for Drug Enforcement Administration agents along the border
- \$32 million to deploy unmanned aerial vehicle surveillance drones
- \$30 million for border interdiction by Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- \$29 million for 250 new Customs and Border Protection officers at ports of entry
- \$24 million for FBI agents along the border

- \$21 million Interagency Crime and Drug Law enforcement along the border
- \$20 million for the federal prison system to detain immigrant criminals
- \$14 million for communication equipment for new officers
- \$13 million for U.S. attorneys and other legal expenses
- \$10 million for federal judiciary resources for an anticipated higher caseload
- \$10 million for investigators to stop corruption in the Border Patrol and Customs and Border Protection

- \$8 million for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
- \$8 million for U.S marshals along the border
- \$7 million for border processing of apprehended drug dealers and human traffickers
- \$6 million to deploy forward operating bases along the border (as opposed to using current bases that are 100 miles away)
- \$2.1 million for expediting administrative review and appeals along the border

Harry Teague has consistently called for a robust, comprehensive strategy to address the

violence along the border. In addition to co-sponsoring several border security funding bills in an effort to expedite these critical resources to the border, he called on the President to [send the National Guard to the border](#) to address the growing national security threat there and led 50 of his colleagues in [requesting supplemental funding](#) to step up border security, including funding for National Guard on the border. Congressman Teague has also called on President Barack Obama to [convene a White House Summit](#) with the aim of building a policy to address the border violence crisis, ensure that the violence does not spill over into the United States, and help America get back to work building our border economies.

###